

inaugurating such a policy, or any course you might think proper to take.

The people are heartily tired of these sensation politicians, if opposed, their time will soon expire. I have as great a horror of the Southern Confederacy as I have of Lincoln's Administration, am opposed to both. I fear it is now too late to make any effort to save our good old State from Civil War. But will *never* despair untill the ship goes down, and feel confident that honest efforts are generally crowned with success. Honest men will not long be deceived by political rogues.

I hope Providence will protect us in the right.

*From D. Clapp*⁵⁶

UNC

Danville, Illinois.

May 7th., 1861.

You will please pardon me, being comparatively a stranger, for addressing you these lines. But having been born and educated, and having resided in your State, in what is now Alamance County, until I was 22 years old, and having many friends still residing there, and feeling a warm attachment to the Southern people, is my only excuse for addressing you in this time of National trial. It is true that I have resided in the North West for 22 years past, but this has not changed, in the least, my admiration of the Southern character; and little did I expect, when I last visited with my family, Old Orange, Alamance and Guilford Counties in the Summer of 1853, that the time would ever come, in the history of this Nation, when it would be unsafe for me to revisit the place of my birth, where my *Father*, and many of my friends lie in the silent grave; but if reports for the last year, and especially for the past six months, be true, then has this time come. But I am branching off in a direction which I did not intend when

old Unionist posture caused both governors Holden and Worth to use him as a mediator in Washington. Although Brown's intellectual equipment was mediocre and he was an unusually poor speaker, he exerted considerable influence in the Jacksonian era. Jackson was his great friend and model. Brown owned a large plantation, "Locust Hill," in Caswell County. C. C. Pearson, "Bedford Brown," *Dictionary of American Biography*, III, 104-105; McCormick, *Convention Personnel*, 22; *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 606.

⁵⁶ This letter reveals the trauma which secession caused for many Southerners who had settled outside their section.